



ASCENSION

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PUBLIC WORSHIP • DECEMBER 15, 2024
THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT



THE WORD



CALL TO WORSHIP • Psalm 68:4

Sing to God, sing praises to his name;
lift up a song to him who rides through the deserts;
his name is Yahweh;
exult before him!

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Text: Charles Wesley • Music: Felix Mendelssohn • Public Domain

Alto

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the
new - born King; peace on earth, and mer - cy mild,
God and sin - ners re - con-ciled!" Joy - ful, all ye
na - tions rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;
with th'an - gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in
Beth - le - hem!" Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing,
"Glo - ry to the new - born King."

The musical score is written for an Alto voice part in G major, 4/4 time. It consists of nine staves of music. The lyrics are printed below the notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Christ, by highest heav'n adored; Christ the everlasting Lord;
late in time, behold him come, offspring of the virgin's womb.

Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th'incarnate Deity,
pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel.

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail the heav'n born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!

Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings.

Mild he lays his glory by, born that man no more may die,
born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

He is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Let us pray...

CALL TO CONFESSION OF SIN • 2 Corinthians 6:1-2

Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For he says, "In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I helped you." Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Our heavenly Father, we confess that we have sinned against you in our actions, in our words, in our minds, in our very hearts.

We have believed lies about you.

We have resented your authority.

We have loved an illusion of our own righteousness.

We have lived as if we could run our lives better than you.

O God, be merciful to us and save us from ourselves.

Assure us of your forgiveness and your love for us in your Son.

Grant us true faith and repentance through your Holy Spirit.

We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

(silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • 2 Corinthians 5:17-18

If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!

OFFERING • Acts 2:44-45

All who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.

DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!

Praise him, all creatures here below!

Praise him above, ye heavenly host!

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost! Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING • Job 5:17-18

- 17 “Behold, blessed is the one whom God reproves;
therefore despise not the discipline of the Almighty.
18 For he wounds, but he binds up;
he shatters, but his hands heal.”

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray...

Holy Father, our great God,
we praise you for your perfect holiness.
We thank you for not sparing your own Son but giving him up for us all.
We love you for adopting us as your children by your grace.
We trust you to use every circumstance for our good as your people.

Our Lord Jesus Christ,
we praise you for taking our condemnation on yourself.
We love you for the pity you showed in rescuing us from our sins.
We rest in you because you are constantly interceding for us with the Father.
We thank you that absolutely nothing can separate us from your love.

Holy Spirit of God,
we praise you for giving us new life and living with us constantly.
We thank you for the war you wage against sin in our lives.
We delight in the assurance you give us that we are God’s sons in Christ.
We love you for searching our hearts and helping us in our weakness.

And now we join together with the Beloved Son in the prayer he taught us:
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

It Came Upon The Midnight Clear

Text: Edmund H. Sears • Music: Richard S. Willis • Public Domain

Alto

It came up - on the mid - night clear, that
Still through the clo - ven skies they come, with
3 And ye, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose
glo - rious song of old, from
peace - ful wings un - furled, and
6 form are bend - ing low, who
an - gels bend - ing near the earth to
still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats o'er
8 toil a - long the climb - ing way with
touch their harps of gold: "Peace
all the wea - ry world: A -
11 pain - ful steps and slow, Look
on the earth good will to men, from
bove its sad and low - ly plains they
13 now! For glad and gold - en hours come
heav - en's all - gra - cious King;" the
bend - on hov - 'ring wing, and
16 swift - ly on the wing: O
world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels
ev - er o'er its Ba - bel sounds the bles - sed an - gels
rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels
19
sing.
sing.
sing.

For lo, the days are hast'ning on, by prophet bards foretold,
When with the evercircling years comes round the age of gold;
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
And the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.

Good Christian Men Rejoice

Text: John Mason Neale • Music: German Melody • Public Domain

Tenor

8 Good Chris - tian men, re - joice, with
3 heart and soul and voice, give ye heed to what we say:
7 Je - sus Christ is born to-day; earth and heav'n be -
8 fore Him bow, and He is in the man - ger now.
10
13 8 Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!

Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice!

Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!

He hath opened heaven's door, and man is blessed evermore.

Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice!

Now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!

Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall.

Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

NEW TESTAMENT READING • Revelation 3:17-21

"You say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. ¹⁸ I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see. ¹⁹ Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent. ²⁰ Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. ²¹ The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

SERMON • "Gospel Discipline and Repentance"

"Know then in your heart that, as a man disciplines his son, Yahweh your God disciplines you." (Dt. 8:5)

"I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me." (Ps. 23:4)

"Blessed is the man whom you discipline, O Yahweh." (Ps. 94:12)

"My son, do not despise Yahweh's discipline or be weary of his reproof, for Yahweh reproveth him whom he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights." (Prov. 3:11-12)

"Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates reproof is stupid." (Prov. 12:1)

"I slept, but my heart was awake.

A sound! My beloved is knocking.

'Open to me, my sister, my love...'" (Song of Solomon 5:2)

"The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel." (Mark 1:15)

"It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it." (Hebrews 12:7-11)



THE UPPER ROOM



CONFESSION OF FAITH • Psalm 23

What do you believe about the Lord Jesus?

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures.

He leads me beside still waters.

He restores my soul.

He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil,

for you are with me;

your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil;

my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE • Colossians 3:15

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

(Greet one another with the words, "*The peace of Christ be with you.*")

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE AND PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION • 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

THE MYSTERIUM FIDEI • 1 Corinthians 11:26; 5:7-8

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

Therefore let us keep the feast.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

GIVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

(All who confess faith in Jesus Christ may partake of this Sacrament: baptized members of a congregation that proclaims the Gospel, who are at peace with God and with their brothers and sisters in Christ, and who seek God's grace to live more faithfully for him in this world. Please come forward after the musicians. The glasses on your right contain grape juice for those who do not want wine. There are gluten-free crackers on the table. An Elder is available for prayer upon request [James 5:13-16].)

I Wonder As I Wander

Text and Tune: Appalachian Carol • Public Domain

The image shows a musical score for the song "I Wonder As I Wander". It consists of seven staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The score includes a key signature change to D major (two sharps) at the end. The lyrics are as follows:

I won - der as I wan - der out
When Ma - ry birthed Je - sus, 'twas
If Je - sus had I want - ed for
I won - der as I wan - der out

3
un - der the sky, how Je - sus, the
in a cows' stall, with wise men in and
an - y wee thing; A how star in the
un - der the sky, how Je - sus, the

6
Sav - ior, did come for to die. For
far - mers and shep - herds and all. But
sky, or a bird on for the wing; or
Savi - ior, did come for to die. For

9
poor, or - nery peo - ple like you and like
high from God's heav - en a star's light did
all of God's an - gels in heav - en to
poor, or - nery peo - ple like you and like

12
I; I won - der as I wan - der, out
fall, and the prom - ise of a - ges it
sing, He sure - ly could have had it, 'cause
I; I won - der as I wan - der out

15
un - der the sky.
then did re - call.
He was the King!
un - der the sky.

We Three Kings

Text & Music: John Henry Hopkins • Public Domain



We three kings of O - ri - ent are:
Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain:
Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I:
Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume
Glo - rious now be - hold Him a - rise:



Bear - ing gifts we trav - erse a - far;
Gold I bring to crown Him a - gain,
In - cense owns a De - i - ty nigh;
King and God and Sac - er - ing gloom -



Field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain
King for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er
Prayer and prais - ing, all men rais - ing,
Sor - r'wing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing,
Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!



Fol - low - ing yon - der star.
O - ver us all to reign.
Wor - ship Him, God on high.
Sealed in the stone cold tomb.
Earth to heav'n re - plies.



O star of won - der, star of night,



Star with roy - al beau - ty bright, West - ward lead - ing,



still pro - ceed - ing, Guide us to thy per - fect light.

Within A Crib My Savior Lay

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, Matthew H. Curl

Music: Matthew H. Curl • Used by Permission

Tenor

With-in a crib my Sav-ior lay, a woo-den man-ger
filled with hay, come down for love on Christ-mas day:
All glo-ry be to Je-sus! Up-on a cross my
Sav-ior died, to ran-som sin-ners, cru-ci-fied, His lov-ing arms still
o-pen wide: All glo-ry be to Je-sus! And this is
love! And this is grace! He came to earth our souls to
save! All glo-ry be to Je-sus!

A victor's crown my Savior won,
his work of love and mercy done,
the Father's high ascended Son:
all glory be to Jesus!

And soon to glory we will rise,
because of our Lord's sacrifice,
new life through him, the crucified:
All glory be to Jesus!

And this is love! And this is grace!
He came to earth our souls to save!
And this is love! And this is grace!
That Christ, our God, did come to save!
All glory be to Jesus.
All glory be to Jesus.

BENEDICTION • 2 Corinthians 13:14

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ
and the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

~

Community Setup & "Prefreshments" • 8:45am Sundays. Coffee/tea/donuts are available at 9:30.

After Worship Today • Join us at 11:30 for Sunday School (kids) and Sermon Discussion (adults).

Advent Choir Practice • 6:30pm tonight at the Costa home.

Midweek Meetings:

- 8:15am Tue. Men's Study - contact: Eric Costa (rev.eric.costa@gmail.com)
- 1:30pm Wed. Women's Study - contact: Cheryl Boden (cheryl@westuniongardens.com)
- 6:30pm Wed. Youth Group - contact: Tim Sery (fiby2020@gmail.com)
- 9am Thu. Women's Study - contact: Audrey Jaques (audreyelainejaques@gmail.com)

Christmas Eve Service • 7pm Tue., Dec. 24.

Men's Retreat • Feb. 28 - Mar. 2 on the Sandy River. Contact: Rob Stevenson.

Shepherding Meetings • The Elders want to check in with the members of the church. We like to use these questions to kickstart our conversations: *1) What are you thankful for? 2) Where are you seeing the grace of God at work in your life? 3) How can we as Elders (or the Deacons) serve you?* To schedule a shepherding meeting, contact Eric (rev.eric.costa@gmail.com).

Email Newsletter • Visit ascensionpc.org/newsletter to subscribe to weekly announcements.

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PRAY FOR THE MINISTRIES & MISSIONARIES WE SUPPORT

Our Denomination, the Presbyterian Church in America (pcanet.org)

Our Presbytery (pacificnorthwestpresbytery.com)

Tomo Ito / Sacred Road Ministries at Warm Springs (sacredroadministries.org)

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(Drop this contact card in the offering, or hand it to the Pastor.)

Name(s)

Email / Phone

- I am a visitor.
- I want to know more about being a Christian.
- I would like to get coffee with the Pastor.
- Please send me the email newsletter.
- Please use this info for the photo directory.